

Haccombe-with-Combe Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on 3 June 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Boarer (Chairman), Alexander, Duggleby, Evans, Humble, Hussey and Pattinson

Also present: County Councillor Dewhirst, District Cllr Haines, Elizabeth Deane (Hearn Field Committee Chairman) and four members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

030620.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Cllr Eaton
- District Cllr Hook
- PC Harvey

030620.02 POLICE REPORT

No report

030620.03 OPEN FORUM

A resident of Haccombe asked whether the Council would enter a discussion about the possibility of introducing traffic calming on the long straight stretch without hedges between the turning for the campsite in Haccombe and the start of the unadopted road leading to Haccombe House.

The reason for the is that cars and vans accelerate when they see a long, straight stretch of open road. However, this stretch of road is relatively quiet as it a no-through road and therefore is very popular with walkers, cyclists, horse riders and also local families and pets. He advised that he had already lost a cat who was killed on this stretch, another has been hit but survived and he knows of others that have been killed. He believes that it is only a matter of time that a human or another pet is hit.

The simple addition of carefully located speed bumps would make all the difference. Having mentioned this to some Haccombe residents, there seems to be a positive reaction to the suggestion.

The Chairman invited County Cllr Dewhirst to comment. He advised that DCC Highways is not keen on speed humps particularly in the countryside. It would need to be established whether everyone in the community who uses the road are in favour of speed humps in this location. However, there is no funding for this type of project and DCC would look to the community to pay for and maintain the speed humps. He is happy to discuss this with Highways but the process would not be quick.

The resident advised that he would be happy to start asking Haccombe residents whether they would support such a project and would contact the Parish Council again should there be a desire to pursue it.

A parishioner asked about the status of the planning application at Coombe Cellars. He had noted that this was not on the agenda to be determined at the next meeting of TDC's Planning Committee and the report from the Biodiversity Officer is still awaited. He commented that the situation was appalling. The lighting is still being operated despite the pub being closed and is mostly affecting Bishopsteignton residents. It can also be seen from the A381 as the lighting is very strong. He advised that he had taken some photographs at 11pm showing how bright the lights are. He was advised that they have not been turned off because the brewery has advised that electricians from the Midlands would have do it. Cllr Haines advised that two further Planning

Committee meetings have been scheduled for 23 June and 7 July. Enforcement action can't be taken whilst a planning application is pending.

A question was asked whether the Parish Council could comment further on the application once the Biodiversity Officer's report has been published. Cllr Haines advised that the Parish Council would be able to do this.

030620.04 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Cllr Dewhurst gave a report, a copy of which is attached.

District Cllr Haines reported that the NA3 appeal has been allowed. The development has been given permission but costs have not been awarded.

The Local Plan Review consultation has been extended until 13 July. The Statement of Community Involvement has been updated.

TDC meetings are being held virtually. He attended a planning briefing yesterday and the Planning Committee is meeting on Tuesday 9 June. The Annual Council meeting will be on 28 July.

030620.05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and to declare any disclosable interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they have in any items to be considered at this meeting. Members were reminded that unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a member would have been aware of such before the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

030620.06 MINUTES

Members agreed to sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 6 May 2020 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

030620.07 DELEGATE REPORTS

There were no reports.

030620.08 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

8.1 Expenditure

Members approved the following payments:

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
Online	South West Water	Water supply to Hearn Field Pavilion	£60.93*
DD	Opus Energy	Hearn Field electricity May)	£21.79
DD	Clerk	Salary (May)	£268.62

* It was noted that the bill from South West Water had been estimated.

8.2 Income

Members noted income (1 May – 29 May 2020):

Received	Received from	Details	Amount
May 2020	Lloyds Bank	Interest	£0.37

8.3 Bank Balances at 29 May 2020

Current account	Savings account	Sea Wall account	Total
£16,312.62	£8,478.25	£4,327.23	£29,118.10

The clerk advised that TDC may ask that the Business Support Grant of £10,000 received last month is paid back. This is because it is unclear whether precepting authorities are eligible.

030620.09 PLANNING

9.1 New applications/appeals

None

9.2 Decisions

9.1.2 19/02351/AGR – Land to the North of Home Farm, Netherton
Agricultural building

Members noted that this development is permitted.

9.3 Enforcement matters

9.3.1 Parking at The Swallows (holiday let adjacent to Westborough Cottage)

Members received correspondence from a resident regarding The Swallows and an alleged breach of planning conditions relating to parking (planning ref: 14/01684/FUL). It was agreed to refer the matter to TDC Enforcement.

9.3.2 The clerk advised that the two enforcement matters raised in May's meeting have been logged by TDC and are currently being investigated. A further matter has also been logged and this relates to a caravan in a field off Hackney Lane near the cricket club.

There has been no response yet to a previous enforcement matter logged in March relating to two caravans sited in a field on land off the unmetalled road leading up from Gulmswell Farm. It was agreed that the clerk would follow this up.

It was noted that the Enforcement Officers had only recently returned to work having been furloughed. No new enforcement officer is now being recruited due to funding as a result of the recent pandemic.

9.3.3. The planning officer dealing with the planning application at Coombe Cellars has advised that she is still awaiting a response from the Biodiversity Officer and that the application will be determined by the Planning Committee. It is not on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting on 9 June.

9.4 **Consultation:** Teignbridge District Council – Draft Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 1) 2020-2040

Comments are invited (deadline extended to 13 July)

(Documents can be viewed online at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/localplanreview)

The draft response from ACT had been circulated to members for reference and would be considered alongside the Parish Council's response. It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting to allow members more time to consider the draft plan.

030620.10. EMERGENCY PLAN

Members reviewed the Emergency Plan. It was agreed that a pandemic should also be identified in the plan as a risk. It was observed that some of the actions in the plan assume people are able to meet physically. It was agreed to update the plan to state that if people are unable to meet physically alternative platforms will be used to connect people (virtual meetings/social media etc). It was also suggested that the Council could put together an emergency response exercise. On balance, however, it was agreed that it had already been tested thoroughly with the Coronavirus pandemic. It was agreed that Cllr Duggleby would check the contact details in the plan and update

it to reflect the comments above. Cllr Dewhirst offered to find out the contact details of TDC's Emergency Planning Officer for inclusion in the plan. The updated plan will be sent to the clerk for circulation and publishing on the website. Contact numbers of volunteers would be kept by the Clerk and Chairman only.

030620.11 HEARN FIELD

Members received the following report from the Hearn Field Committee Chairman:

We are very happy to be able to report that the field has been used and greatly valued by the community during the Coronavirus pandemic. It has provided a safe place for local people to exercise out of doors and most have observed government guidelines and been respectful of each other and the space. We are grateful to Simon Guppy for keeping the grass mown in order that the field could continue to be used. All bookings have of course been cancelled, many rebooking for next year, including Reach Outdoors.

Larch overhanging the car park

This tree on the border with Tidelands is leaning and requires cutting down in order to keep the car park area safe. We have had three quotes for this work. The lowest quote is for £200 and the work can be done on Thursday if approved by the Parish Council. This was agreed by members.

Ash dieback on tree in the top hedge

There is a large tree in the grounds of Yellowmead on the Shaldon Road and which hangs over the top hedge along the driveway. It appears to have Ash dieback disease. This will present a danger to the public should it fall. We would like the PC to contact the owner to ask them to look into this with a view to cutting it down. It was agreed that the clerk would write to the owner of Yellowmead.

Cricket

We have been approached by a resident of the parish who is looking to establish a cricket team in the village. They are requesting permission to use the field for practices this season and weekly 'nets practice' and some matches next season. We have explained that gatherings of any kind for sport on the field are not permissible under current social distancing regulations. They have made preliminary investigations in terms of where a 'strip' might be located and have cut the grass in that area. We have advised them that further work on the grass would be inadvisable whilst permission from the Parish Council for a longer term booking was being sought. Clarification in terms of public liability insurance, flexibility of bookings, management of space would be needed by the Parish Council. A Hearn Field Committee meeting has been arranged for next Thursday at which the request will be considered in more detail.

Illyria theatre

We have been contacted by the company to cancel the planned show for June and to ask if we would like them to come in 2021. With the permission of the Parish Council we would like to rebook. This was agreed.

Possible use of drugs on the field

It has been observed that over the last months a group of young people, not local, have been gathering in the evenings at the pavilion and smoking and drinking and leaving drug related litter. More recently it has been suggested that the location may be being used by people dealing in drugs. We have reported this situation to the police but would be grateful if it could be reported formally by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the clerk would report this to the police.

A lot more litter and dog mess has also been observed. How to address this will be discussed in the Hearn Field Committee meeting. New signage will probably be required. Cllr Evans suggested that dog owners are confronted if their dogs are seen fouling on the field and it is not picked up.

030620.12 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- 12.1 Members received and noted correspondence from Mr Halpin. Regarding the responsibility for the track leading up from Gulmswell Farm, it was noted that Mr Halpin does not accept that DCC is responsible for it. County Cllr Dewhirst confirmed that it is an unmetalled highway and therefore DCC has a responsibility to maintain it to a certain standard. DCC does not normally own the land beneath a highway but is only responsible for maintaining the surface. DCC can apply for highway rights to extinguished. He advised that vehicles should have unfettered access to the highway and the PROW Officer, Jonathan Rowlands, will remove posts or other obstructions if they are blocking the highway. It was acknowledged that anything falling into the highway, such as trees, is the responsible of the landowner who has a duty to maintain their land. The Parish Council requested through County Councillor Dewhirst that DCC assists with clearing the track and inform Mr Halpin that he has no authority to block the highway. Cllr Dewhirst advised that Mr Rowlands, is visiting the site next Tuesday. It was suggested that David Halpin is invited to meet with Mr Rowlands. Cllrs Boarer and Humble would also attend. It was agreed to write to Mr Halpin to advise that the issues he has raised relating to the track is a matter between him and DCC and that DCC will be taking up the issue with him.
- 12.2 Members received correspondence regarding the condition of the lane through Lower Netherton. The Chairman advised that the lane seems ok and that run-off usually washes into the stream. The lane linking Netherton to Lower Netherton, however, is covered in mud as the banks keep falling down into the road. County Councillor Dewhirst was asked whether DCC could do anything.
- 12.3 Cllr Humble advised that and ancient oak tree has been felled at the rear of 2 Chestnut Drive on one of the public rights of way for which the Parish Council is responsible. She advised that the matter had been dealt with by DCC PROW Jonathan Rowlands. It was a diseased tree and has been felled legitimately.
- 12.4 Cllr Humble advised that volunteers can start work on footpaths and bridleways provided DCC is consulted before any work is undertaken.
- 12.5 It was reported that the footpath running through land belonging to the Mare and Foal Sanctuary is overgrown. It was agreed that the clerk would write and ask that the overgrowth is cut back and the path kept clear.

030620.13 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no further items of correspondence.

030620.14 MEMBERS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR GENERAL DISCUSSION, FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS AND/OR ITEMS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

Members are reminded that they have not received the statutory notice of this business to be transacted and should therefore recognise that any decision made may be taken to be unlawful if challenged in the future

None.

030620.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting is 1 July 2020.

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Chairman

County Councillor's Report 3rd June 2020

If you have received an NHS extremely vulnerable letter, registered for support on the government website but you have not received a food delivery, or you need other help because you are isolated please call the Council on 0345 155 1011. There is a similar Teignbridge number for anyone needing assistance – 01626 215512

The County Council has reopened its Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) for essential use. The government has defined 'essential use' as waste that *'cannot be stored without causing a risk of injury, health or harm to the resident or other members of their household.'* Residents are urged to follow government guidance and only travel to recycling centres if the waste presents a hazard and *'cannot be legally and responsibly disposed of in other ways.'*

As of today van based cars with seats in the back and trailers as well as bicyclists will be allowed into the HWRC. The site has been reconfigured to allow a further six offloading spaces which equates to an additional 300 vehicles a day. We are shortly to commence with a booking system to allow vans and commercial vehicles onto the site – this will commence soon.

Friday 5th June will be the last day that National Bus Pass holders in Devon can use their passes before 9:30am. Pass holders in the county have been able to use their pass at any time of day following the temporary relaxation of restrictions in the county in March to help people during the coronavirus pandemic.

However, as more people return to work and social distancing needs to be maintained on bus services, early morning bus capacity is needed for commuters. Travel with the National Bus Pass will revert to the standard operating times from Saturday 6 June – with unlimited travel at weekends and Bank Holidays and from 9:30am until the end of service on weekdays.

A month-long cycle challenge will be held throughout June to support Bike Month and help get Devon moving again. It's part of a nationwide strategy to encourage everyone to travel actively, help reopen the economy and keep coronavirus at bay.

Cycling is recommended for daily exercise and is the best way to travel to maintain social distancing and avoid congestion. Everyone over 16 is invited to take part regardless if you have just started cycling or you cycle regularly. By signing up, logging rides and encouraging others to take part, you can support Bikes for Key Workers initiatives, have some fun and have the chance to win one of two £500 vouchers to spend at a local bike shop.

You can also track mileage, earn badges and track your progress against others, helping you stay connected to others by cycling. Once you have logged a ride in June and encouraged someone else to sign up, you will be automatically entered into the prize draws. Cyclists are also encouraged to share a photo, video or story on social media using the #ChooseCycling hashtag or use the ADD A STORY feature on the Love to Ride Devon website.

Devon's Cabinet discussed, in a full agenda, the Highway Maintenance Revenue and Capital Budget. One of the impacts of the corona virus is that the way we can use public transport will change and more people are likely to opt to walk or cycle to get to work and school, and the County Council is being asked to approve over £48 million of spending on maintaining Devon's roads.

The Government has also launched a £23 million fund to invest in improving stretches of the National Cycle Network and encouraging more people to cycle and walk, particularly children and young people so that greener travel choices are the norm – we await the funding outcome for Devon.

While we all recognise that Devon's roads need to be fixed, the potholes filled and road drainage problems sorted out, now is the time to be looking at all the County Council's highways budgets and plans so we can put more into public transport, cycling and walking. The urgency is now, not in the next year's budget round. In the meantime, I have asked, as an emergency measure, that 20 mph speed limits be imposed in Ringmore, Combeinteignhead and Abbotskerswell to encourage sustainable travel – sadly I don't expect our Highways to rise to the challenge.

As Chair of Scrutiny I have been working with our Democratic Services team to ensure that we will be running a full scrutiny of Council operations at our meetings scheduled for late June. This is happening whilst two Officers have been transferred to other Covid-19 duties and one is stuck in Germany – although he is working very effectively from there!

Finally, I want to say thank you again to all the amazing NHS workers, the Social Care staff, the Council bin men & sweepers, those behind the scenes keeping everything going, the teachers, the shop workers, the delivery drivers and those providing vital services - thank for all you have done!

Alistair Dewhirst

alistair.dewhirst@devon.gov.uk / Tel 07836 704127